

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

There is no more important issue in a democracy than the promotion of a free and independent press. The consolidation of media ownership works directly against this. Without a counter-balance from the government to support and protect local and independent media, the freedom of the public to be informed will surely be lost. As Jefferson said, "If a nation expects to be both ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."